

13:9A-1. Legislative intent; inventory and mapping of tidal wetlands; filing in office of county recording officer

a. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that one of the most vital and productive areas of our natural world is the so-called "estuarine zone," that area between the sea and the land; that this area protects the land from the force of the sea, moderates our weather, provides a home for water fowl and for ù of all our fish and shellfish, and assists in absorbing sewage discharge by the rivers of the land; and that in order to promote the public safety, health and welfare, and to protect public and private property, wildlife, marine fisheries and the natural environment, it is necessary to preserve the ecological balance of this area and prevent its further deterioration and destruction by regulating the dredging, filling, removing or otherwise altering or polluting thereof, all of the extent and in the manner provided herein.

b. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall, within 2 years of the effective date of this act, make an inventory and maps of all tidal wetlands within the State. The boundaries of such wetlands shall generally define the areas that are at or below high water and shall be shown on suitable maps, which may be reproductions or aerial photographs. Each such map shall be filed in the office of the county recording officer of the county or counties in which the wetlands indicated thereon are located. Each wetland map shall bear a certificate of the commissioner to the effect that it is made and filed pursuant to this act. To be entitled to filing no wetlands map need meet the requirements of R.S. 47:1-6.

13:9A-2. Authority of commissioner to adopt, modify or repeal orders regulating, altering or polluting coastal wetlands; coastal wetlands defined

The Commissioner may from time to time, for the purpose of promoting the public safety, health and welfare, and protecting public and private property, wildlife and marine fisheries, adopt, amend, modify or repeal orders regulating, restricting or prohibiting dredging, filling, removing or otherwise altering, or polluting, coastal wetlands. For the purposes of this act the term "coastal wetlands" shall mean any bank, marsh, swamp, meadow, flat or other low land subject to tidal action in the State of New Jersey along the Delaware bay and Delaware river, Raritan bay, Barnegat bay, Sandy Hook bay, Shrewsbury river including Navesink river, Shark river, and the coastal inland waterways extending southerly from Manasquan Inlet to Cape May Harbor, or at any inlet, estuary or tributary waterway or any thereof, including those areas now or formerly connected to tidal waters whose surface is at or below an elevation of 1 foot above local extreme high water, and upon which may grow or is capable of-growing some, but not necessarily all, of the following: Salt meadow grass (*Spartine patens*), spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*), black grass (*Juncus gerardi*), saltmarsh grass (*Spartina alterniflora*), saltworts (*Salicornia Europaea*, and *Salicornia bigelovii*), Sea Lavender (*Limonium carelinianum*), saltmarsh bulrushes (*Scirpus robustus* and *Seirpus Paludosus* var. *atlanticus*), sand spurrey (*Spergularia marina*), switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), tall cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), hightide bush (*Iva frutescens* var. *oraria*), cattails (*Typha angustifolia*, and *Typha latifolia*), spike rush (*Eleocharis rostellata*), chairmaker's rush (*Scirpus americana*), bent grass (*Agrostis palustris*), and sweet grass (*Hierochloe odorata*). The term "coastal wetlands" shall not include any land or real property subject to the jurisdiction of the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 1968.

13:9A-3. Public hearing; notice to owner; recordation of orders

The commissioner shall, before adopting, amending, modifying or repealing any such order, hold a public hearing thereon in the county in which the coastal wetlands to be affected are located, giving notice thereof to each owner of all real property as shown on the current tax duplicate, located in the State and within 200 feet in all directions of the property which is the subject of such hearing in the manner prescribed by section 7.1 of P.L. 1975, c. 291 (C 40:55 D-12) and by publication thereof at least twice in each of the 3 weeks next preceding the date of such hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or municipalities in which such coastal wetlands are located.

Upon the adoption of any such order or any order amending, modifying or repealing the same, the commissioner shall cause a copy thereof, together with a plan of the lands affected, including reference to the filed wetlands map or maps on which the same are shown and a list of the owners of records of such lands, to be recorded in the office of the county clerk or register of deeds, where it shall be indexed and filed as a judgment, and shall mail a copy of such order and plan to each owner of record of such lands affected thereby.

13:9A-4. Regulated activity; necessity of permit to conduct; application; determination of issuance

a. For purposes of this section "regulated activity" includes but is not limited to draining, dredging, excavation or removal of soil, mud, sand, gravel, aggregate of any kind or depositing or dumping therein any rubbish or similar material or discharging therein liquid wastes, either directly or otherwise, and the erection of structures, drivings of pilings, or placing of obstructions, whether or not changing the tidal ebb and flow. "Regulated activity" shall not include continuance of commercial production of salt hay or other agricultural crops or activities conducted under section 7 of this act.

b. No regulated activity shall be conducted upon any wetland without a permit.

c. Any person proposing to conduct or cause to be conducted a regulated activity upon any wetland shall file an application for a permit with the commissioner, in such form and with such information as the commissioner may prescribe and shall provide notice to each electric or gas public utility in the State and to each owner of all real property as shown on the current tax duplicate, located in the State and within 200 feet in all directions of the property which is the subject of such application in the manner prescribed by section 7.1 of P.L. 1975, c. 291 (C 40:55 D-12). Such application shall include a detailed description of the proposed work and a map showing the area of wetland directly affected with the location of the proposed work thereon, together with the names of the owners of record of adjacent land and known claimants of rights in or adjacent to the wetland of whom the applicant has notice. All applications, with any maps and documents relating thereto, shall be open for inspection at the office of the Department of Environmental Protection.

d. In granting, denying or limiting any permit the commissioner shall consider the effect of the proposed work with reference to the public health and welfare, marine fisheries, shell fisheries, wildlife, the protection of life and

property from flood, hurricane and other natural disasters, and the public policy set forth in section 1.a. of this act.

13:9A-5. Jurisdiction of violations

The Superior Court shall have jurisdiction to restrain violations of orders issued pursuant to this act.

13:9A-6. Complaint by landowner affected by order; recordation of finding

Any person having a recorded interest in land affected by any such order or permit, may, within 90 days after receiving notice thereof, file a complaint in the Superior Court to determine whether such order or permit so restricts or otherwise affects the use of his property as to deprive him of the practical use thereof and is therefore an unreasonable exercise of the police power because the order or permit constitutes the equivalent of a taking without compensation. If the court finds the order or permit to be an unreasonable exercise of the police power, the court shall enter a finding that such order or permit shall not apply to the land of the plaintiff; provided, however, that such finding shall not affect any other land than that of the plaintiff; provided, however, that such finding shall not affect any other land than that of the plaintiff. Any party to the suit may cause a copy of such finding to be recorded forthwith in the office of the county clerk or register of deeds, where it shall be indexed and filed as a judgment.

The method provided in this section for the determination of the issue shall be exclusive, and such issue shall not be determined in any other proceeding.

13:9A-7. Application of act on powers and duties of certain state departments or agencies

No action by the commissioner under this act shall prohibit, restrict or impair the exercise or performance of the powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on the State Department of Environmental Protection, the Natural Resource Council and the State Mosquito Control Commission in said Department, the State Department of Health, or any mosquito control or other project or activity operating under or authorized by the provisions of chapter 9 of Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

13:9A-8. Application of act to riparian lands

Nothing in this act or any permit issued hereunder shall affect the rights of the State in, or the obligations of a riparian owner with respect to, riparian lands.

13:9A-9. Violations; penalties

Any person who violates any order by the commissioner, or violates any of the provisions of this act, shall be liable to the State for the cost of restoration of the affected wetlands to its condition prior to such violation insofar as that is possible, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, to be collected in accordance with the provisions of the Penalty Enforcement Law (N.J.S. 2A:58-1 et seq.).

13:9A-10. Short title

This act may be cited as The Wetlands Act of 1970.